



HOMEGOING
CELEBRATION
for

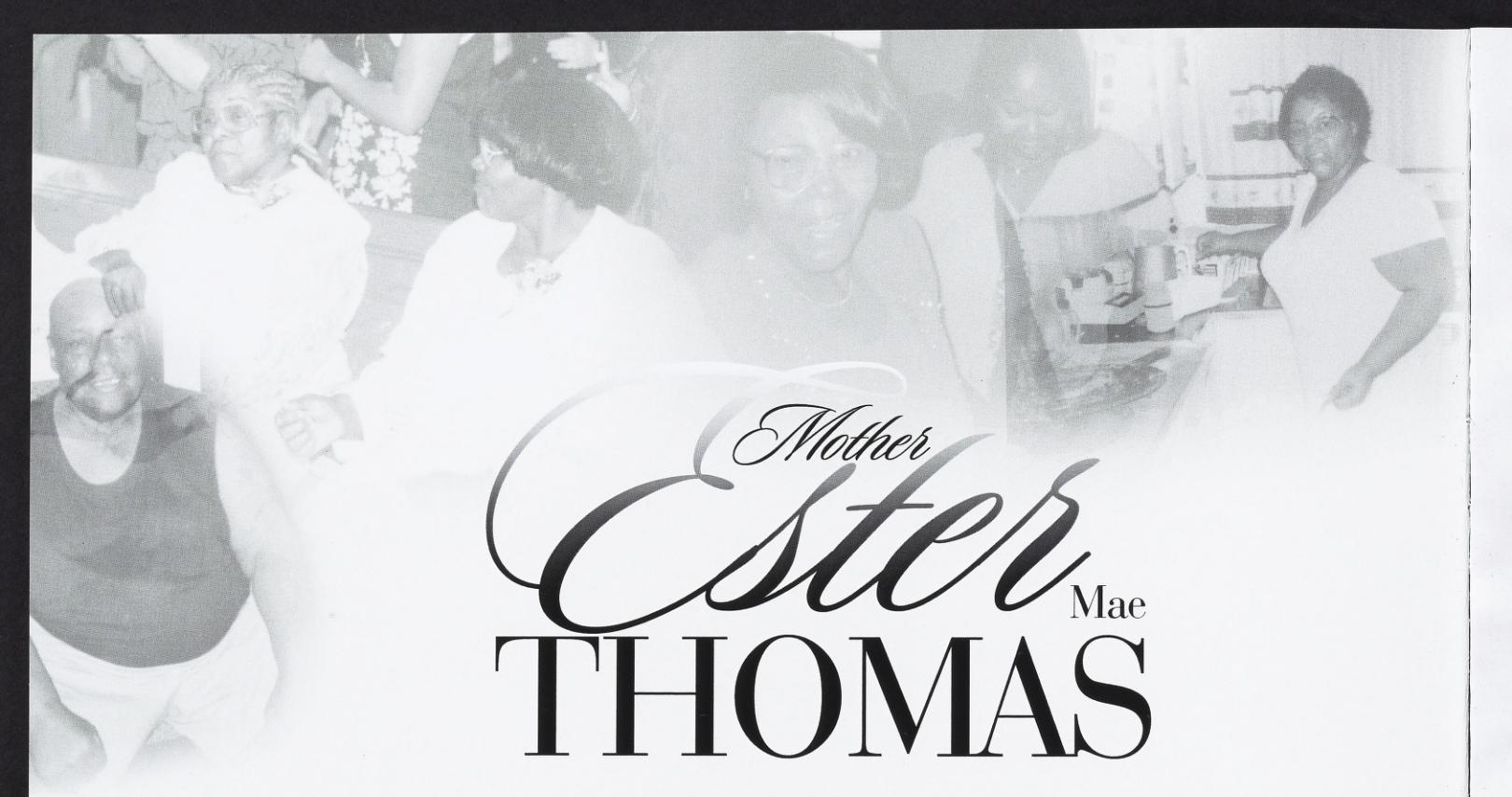
Mother
MAE
Ester
THOMAS

June 13, 1927

SUNRISE

April 7, 2015

SUNSET



Mother *Ester* Mae THOMAS

Mark 11:23

For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

Celebration of Life

Saturday, April 25, 2015

12 noon

THE CIRCLE CHURCH

111 Errett Circle | Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Pastor Kenneth Peoples, Officiating



Order of Celebration

Facilitator - Pastor Kenneth Peoples
Prayer Mission COGIC

PROCESSIONAL _____ Clergy & Family

PRAYER OF COMFORT _____ Supt. Paul D. Bates
Prayer Garden COGIC

SCRIPTURE:
Old Testament _____ Elder Ray Brown
New Testament _____ Minister Derek Warburton

MUSICAL SELECTION _____ Pastor Kevin Roberson
(Songs of Worship) Jubilee Ministries

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONDOLENCES/RESOLUTIONS Missionary Jacqueline Bates

SPECIAL TRIBUTE:
Celebrating the Life of Ester Thomas _____ District Miss'v Patricia Wright

SPECIAL REMARKS _____ The Clergy

WORDS OF EXPRESSIONS _____ Annie Mae Keller (*Best Friend*)
(two minutes, please) and *Other Friends of the Family*

MUSICAL SELECTION _____ Bishop David McNeir
New Beginnings Tabernacle of Life

POEM _____ Sister Vera Palmer

SPECIAL REMARKS _____ First Lady Mother Amanda Smith (Sister)
Compassion abernacle Church of Racine, WI

WORDS OF EXPRESSIONS _____ THE FAMILY

Reading of the Obituary Missionary Denise Brown

INTRODUCTION OF EULOGIST _____ Supt. Paul D. Bates
Prayer Garden COGIC

MUSICAL SELECTION _____ Word of Life COGIC Choir

EULOGY PASTOR ERNEST LEE BROWN Word of Life Church of God in Christ

Parting View & Recessional



Her Story

Ester Mae (Rogers) Thomas entered this earthly realm on June 13, 1927 in Slaughter, Louisiana. She was the second oldest of five children born to Mr. McHenry Rogers and Ms. Annie Mae Jackson. Ester attended elementary school in the Slaughter school district and graduated from the sixth grade. She then stopped attending school to help at home and support her family.

At the early age 18, Ester dedicated most of her young life and took on the great responsibility of raising her four siblings after the passing of their mother. On June 16, 1944, she married the love of her life, Frank Thomas in Baton Rouge, LA. To this union eight beautiful girls and one handsome boy was born. Ester and Frank were determined to leave Slaughter, LA in order to give their children a better life—they headed west and ended in Santa Cruz, CA

Everyone that knew her *and those who didn't* soon found out that-- **YOU DID NOT MESS WITH HER KIDS!** The compassion and love for her husband, children, and siblings spread further to her grandchildren. She loved her grandchildren, and her grandchildren loved her. She was known to fix a GRAND breakfast for them on their first day of school each year. Ester enjoyed spending every Saturday at the flea market with her beloved husband, Frank. Occasionally, she would have a flea market at her own house. She also loved to cook; her specialty was sweet potato pie. She cooked so well, her children loved to stay in the kitchen. But she always said, "Get out of the refrigerator and my kitchen." "You are going to eat me out of house and home." Ester looked forward to taking vacation every year, sometimes accompanied by her daughter, Saundra, to visit and stay with her sister Amanda and her husband for a much needed rest and relaxation.

She received Christ in the early 60's and joined the Friendly Church of God in Christ under the leadership of the late Elder E.D. Givens. Elder Givens went on to be with the Lord, and the late Pastor Vernon Warren was installed as Pastor. Friendly C.O.G.I.C. then became Word of Life C.O.G.I.C. After the passing of Pastor Warren, Ester was under the leadership of Pastor E.L. Brown until her death. Her life in the church was plentiful. She was a church mother, the pastor's aid, participated in fundraisers, and was the financial secretary for Bishop Mathis. She was a faithful woman who loved God and was passionate about the church and the church family.

Ester worked at the Thomas J. Lipton Company, where her employees loved and respected her walk with the Lord. They often came to her for spiritual advice and counsel. While working at the Lipton Company, she took on a seasonal job with Stokely-Van Camp. She went from one job to the other one. After 25 years of service with Lipton, she retired with special honors, and an appreciation dinner was given in her honor from the company.

Mother Ester Thomas was a praying woman, faithful wife, dedicated mother, hard worker, generous giver, and loved to help people with clothes and food. She often opened her home and heart to anyone in need.

(continued on next page)



**"You did not mess with
her kids"**

(Her Story cont'd)

On April 7, 2015 at 3:03 pm in home of her daughter, Anna, Mother Thomas went home to be with the Lord. During this transition, her daughter was singing, "Walk With Me Lord" while holding her mother in her arms, and Mother Thomas knew that God was walking with her. She was surrounded by two of her daughters Saundra and Anna, and other family members. We have lost a mother, a friend, and confidant. *Mother Thomas was irreplaceable and will never be forgotten!*

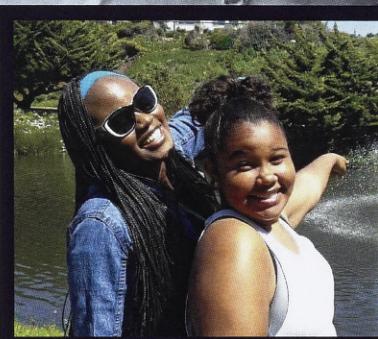
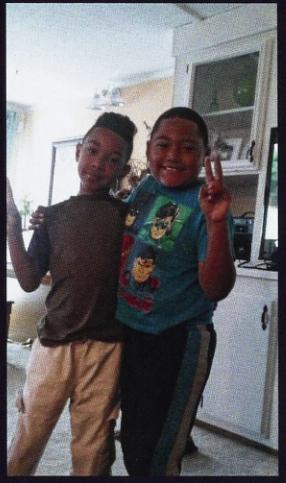
She was preceded in death by her husband, Deacon Frank Thomas; her mother, Annie Mae Jackson; her father, McHenry Rogers; her oldest daughter, Carol Williams; her sister, Ethel Mae Rogers and two brothers, Henry Rogers, Jr. and Allen Rogers.

She leaves behind her son, John Thomas of Santa Cruz, CA; seven daughters: Doris Thomas of Santa Cruz, CA, Anna Jones (J.W. Jones, Jr.) of Modesto, CA, Joyce Palmer (Leroy Palmer) of Santa Cruz, CA; Ruby Brown (Pastor Ernest Brown) of Santa Cruz, CA, Yevona Thomas of Santa Cruz, CA, Saundra Kruse of Modesto, CA, Julie Thomas of Sunnyvale, CA; one brother: Holice Rogers of Santa Cruz, CA; one sister, Amanda Smith (Elder John J. Smith) of Racine WI; two God sons, thirteen grandchildren, thirteen great grandchildren and one great great-grandchild and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins other relatives and friends.



"If

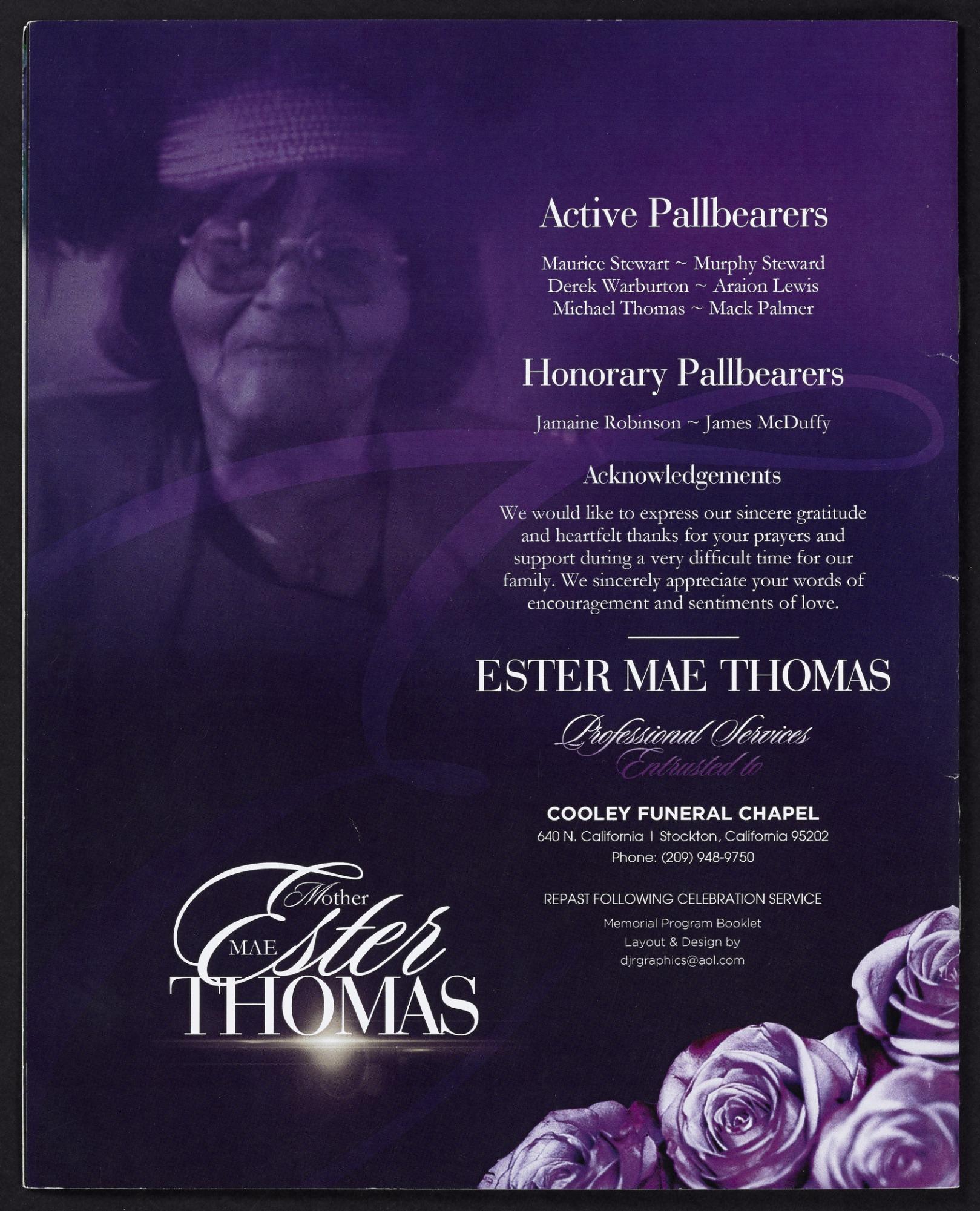
To all of you remember --
"If you can take it, you can make it."



There's no place like home... except Grandmas



"I got to hold my
great great grandchild
Praise the Lord."



Active Pallbearers

Maurice Stewart ~ Murphy Steward
Derek Warburton ~ Araion Lewis
Michael Thomas ~ Mack Palmer

Honorary Pallbearers

Jamaine Robinson ~ James McDuffy

Acknowledgements

We would like to express our sincere gratitude and heartfelt thanks for your prayers and support during a very difficult time for our family. We sincerely appreciate your words of encouragement and sentiments of love.

ESTER MAE THOMAS

*Professional Services
Entrusted to*

COOLEY FUNERAL CHAPEL

640 N. California | Stockton, California 95202

Phone: (209) 948-9750

REPAST FOLLOWING CELEBRATION SERVICE

Memorial Program Booklet

Layout & Design by

djrgraphics@aol.com

Mother
Ester
MAE
THOMAS

